Vicarage Long Benton
Newcastle on Tyne
Sept. 24. 1842.

Sir

Can you pardon the presumption of a country Vicar when he ventures to suggest an emendation in the Text of a Play edited by you? — The passage to which I would refer you occurs in "Patient Grisild" pg. 14 line 4th from the bottom Shakespeare Society's edition. — At present it stands thus

"Ma. This mean choice will distain your nobleness.

"Mar. No more, Mario: then, it doth disgrace
The sun to shine on me."

Which latter speech I would read thus

"Not more, Mario, than it doth &c"

I am not sure whether then & than as they are often confounded in pronunciation (in these northern counties) might not here

been written indiscriminately in the time of the Dramatist, Perhaps "No more" has more colloquial freedom than "not more" but the punctuation, as it stands, misleads ~~me from the meaning~~ me to a tendency

Again in p 20 & from bottom -
"'tis well known Sir Owen is good Gentleman, is not his kin seems to require ~~that it should be~~ us to read "is it not his kin" -

These passages struck me last evening in reading the play, & as it was my good fortune once to meet Mr Collier there (officiating as Sublibrarian of the Bodleian) I had the pleasure of handling him some of the rare Dr Thomas in Malone's Collection, I trust he will excuse my submitting these remarks to him.

At all events, Sir, it affords me

an opportunity of thanking you for your zeal in the support & in the foundation of the Hakluyt Society for your able & successful ~~endeavours~~ labours to

give publicity as at last a correct text of the first bard ~~Scottish~~ & for your unwearied industry ~~other labours~~

in bringing to light many a rare gem of literature mouldering over in lost & forgotten works. The value of such our earlier writers - ~~the benefits of their~~ researches is felt by none so fully as by ~~those who to none more valuable than to~~ those who like myself have on the evidence cut them off from access to the great repositories of the original editions -

I have the honor to be

Sir

your faithful Servt

John Bruce.

J. P. Collier Esq.